

Pebble Gardens Answer for Problem Yards

The shrubs shade it, it's too close to a walk, too near a tree, and the grass either won't grow well or can't be cut conveniently. A problem area like this is really no problem at all, and can be the most striking area around the home with the help of pebbles and clay potted plants.

Once it is decided that the area is just too difficult to handle as a lawn, clear it of weeds and other debris. Shovel and hoe the soil one foot deep, and rake it level.

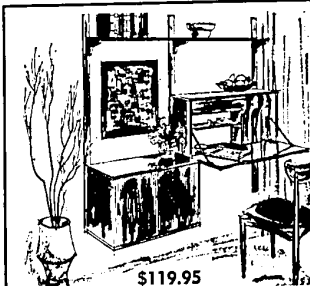
Next, border the area with old bricks, new bricks, Belgian blocks or aluminum garden edging. Then, add two inches of uniform size pebbles or crushed rock to cover the soil completely.

Set plants in porous clay pots on top of the pebble layer. But be certain that the plants you selected are those suitable for the prevailing light conditions in that spot.

If the pebble garden gets a lot of open sunlight, then the plants should be double potted.

This involves placing them in clay pots one size larger and filling the space between the two pots with sphagnum or peat moss and keeping it damp.

When selecting plants for your pebble garden, it's wise to seek the advice of a local florist or garden center.



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Insist on "ever-blooming" roses, suggests the American Association of Nurserymen.

The different types of roses include:

1. Hybrid teas. These generally offer the most perfectly formed blooms and the formal garden or for cut flowers to decorate the home. The colors are magnificent.

2. Floribunda roses offer many blooms on a single plant. If you are most interested in the quantity of blooms, many of which also are of good quality, these plants are for you. They are excellent as living

fences and landscape decoration.

3. Climbing roses grow vigorously against a post, fence, arbor, porch, garage, and similar supporting structures.

4. Polyanthas are known as ramblers. They bear clusters of small flowers and they bloom profusely. They are colorful when massed in beds.

5. Tree roses are usually specimen plants used to set off a walk, porch, or some particular spot on the home grounds that may need a little "dressing up." They usually are around four to five feet in height, giving the effect of bouquets of lovely roses as guests walk between them.

6. Grandiflora rose is named because of its large size and wealth of blooms. It makes a fine accent plant, either in gardens or singly to add color where needed.

Observer GARDEN PAGE

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